Happy Holidays!

Numismagram Newsletter #162 (XII/2025)

We're back, *a little later in the day than usual*, with our final upload of the year—and this one, as we approach Christmas next Thursday, has a bit of theme along those lines. Leading things off is a large white metal issue from Thomasen's Medallic Illustrations of the Holy Scriptures series…

Featuring the Three Magi, this associated iconography is a staple of the Christmas season. And, for this piece in particular—*though still in the more commonly-encountered format of white metal*—it lacks the pestering and spotting that usually plagues them, all while displaying rich brilliance and flair.

Continuing in this vein, we have another medal from the Paris mint that channeled ancient coins in a larger, medallic format. In this case, a fairly rare architectural type of Divus Augustus, who had been the Roman emperor during the birth of Christ…

Meanwhile, the coin upon which this medal is based, while featuring the deified Augustus, was struck during the reign of his successor, Tiberius. Interestingly, it was during the reign of Tiberius that, according to the traditional chronology, Christ's crucifixion occurred.

And, speaking of the crucifixion, there is this silver baptismal medal from the early 19th century which features Christ and a kneeling child on the obverse, and a small statue of the crucified Christ on the reverse…

In addition, there is this bronze medal from 1897 celebrating the 44th General Assembly of German Catholics in Landshut, Germany…

…and, though only featuring Christ to a small degree, there is this incredibly impressive mid-19th century Russian icon displaying Saints Florus and Laurus…

Though it is impossible to tell just from the image, this icon is not a normal sized one, as in something that is the size of a regular sheet of paper (or smaller). In fact, it is rather large and monumental, measuring just over 24” in width and 31” in height, all while weighing nearly 17 pounds. Yes, you read all of those measurements correctly. One could easily see this icon having a past life in a small church setting in the pastoral Russian countryside. While not in pristine condition, it nevertheless remains rather wondrous and enchanting, and with very expressive and vibrant colors.

Some of the other highlights of this upload include this love token engraved upon a Seated Liberty quarter…

Something about this elegantly created specimen evokes a Victorian Christmastime feel, at least for me.

While celebrating what is hopefully some vacation, maybe you will take in a movie during this holiday season…

This medal, likely awarded in the early 1930's, was presented for an amateur film competition that took place in the Thanet District in Kent, England.

In addition to a movie, maybe you will enjoy a drink, *or a few*—aspects that this Belgo-Dutch medal from 1906 no doubt conveys…

Issued by the *Société hollando-belge des amis de la médaille*, it displays an alewife on the obverse, as women played a rather large role in early brewing. Meanwhile, on the reverse, it features a maenad reveling among grapes, as maenads were the attendants of Dionysos, the god of wine.

Maybe too you'll opt for just sitting by the fireside and listening to the radio. Well, as you might guess, we even have a radio-related issue…

This papal medal from 1958 celebrates the establishment of the Vatican's radio station, with the Archangel Gabriel in flight before a transmitting tower in the shape of a giant cross.

For all of this upload's new items, please click **here** or on the banner art below. Have a great holiday season and a prosperous New Year, and we will be back with our first upload of 2026 in a little over two weeks on 5 January.

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